



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

DAVID C. HOLLISTER
DIRECTOR

February 10, 2005

To: Mechanical Inspectors and Mechanical Contractors

From: Tennison B. Barry Chief, Mechanical Division

Subject: HVAC Clarification

In the winter 2005 Bulletin I wrote an article regarding recent changes to the HVAC license examination and the associated impact upon the HVAC license classification. This letter is to provide clarification regarding the timing of those changes. The changes went into effect on March 3, 2004, which is the date that the new HVAC examination was first given. As previously indicated in the article in the Bulletin, the examination has been changed from a 50 question examination to a 160 question examination. The examination was revised to allow for incorporation of all portions of the HVAC system including the ductwork, gas piping and venting of the equipment.

In conjunction with the HVAC license examination changes, the department has determined that individuals who have a HVAC endorsement on their license, could install after March 3, 2004 the associated ductwork, gas piping, and venting equipment as part of the HVAC system installation.

For the future, the ductwork examination will be upgraded to include additional questions on industrial and commercial duct applications. The new ductwork license examination is intended for individuals who wish to install industrial and commercial duct systems. Notification of the effective date of the changes to ductwork license examination will be provided when available.

If you have any questions you may contact me at (517)-241-9325.

Providing for Michigan's Safety in the Built Environment

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES & FIRE SAFETY
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BULLETIN

WINTER 2005

www.michigan.gov/bccfs



REVISED MUEC AVAILABLE

The 2003 Michigan Uniform Energy Code rules were filed with the Secretary of State on December 16, 2004. These rules become effective statewide on February 28, 2005.

This rule set adopts Chapter 11 of the 2003 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC) with Michigan amendments. **Please note:** there are rules from the adopted IRC rule set which did not change. The legislative process requires these rules be included once the rule set takes effect. Therefore, when viewing the certified rules remember they only contain those rules amended, added or deleted.

Copies of the complete *Michigan Uniform Energy Code* may be purchased by mailing a check or money order made payable to: "State of Michigan" for \$2.50 and a completed [Codes and Standards Order Form](#) to the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, MI 48909. Also, copies may be purchased at the bureau's Okemos office at 2501 Woodlake Circle, 2nd Floor. Please call (517) 241-9313 to check availability.

Click here to access the [Michigan Uniform Energy Code](#) certified rule set, a two-page version of the Abbreviated Report Form N1107.1 or see the Cost Benefit Analysis for the MUEC.

Technical questions regarding the code may be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

CLOSING THE DOOR ON '04... MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE IN '05!

Henry L. Green, Director
Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety

Happy New Year! Like every year at this time, we look back and assess where we've been and where we want to go. As I look back on last year, I feel very proud of the direction the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety (BCCFS) has taken. I'd like to share a few of the highlights from 2004...

One obvious change is the updated look of the *Bulletin*. Because we will be using the web as our primary distribution method for the newsletter, we have revamped the format to be web-friendly and organized in an easy to read format.

Other major highlights include naming our new State Fire Marshal, Andy Neumann. Andy became the State Fire Marshal in July and hit the ground running. Andy, a former legislator, was also a fire fighter. He brings that important perspective to the job and is focused on his functions of promoting fire safety.

Last year we also named a director to the Fire Fighter Training Council. Joe Grutza assumed his roll as director in September after serving the city of Trenton nobly for 28 years.

And last summer, Governor Granholm unveiled [MiTAPS](#) -a statewide effort aimed at streamlining the permit process. I am proud to say that the bureau played a major roll in leading the development and implementation of the program. Over the next year you'll see more progress on this program. More importantly, you'll experience the benefits of the new streamlined process, which will get your project up and running in record time.

Another highlight includes our [web-based video code training program](#). Last year we added more video training modules to the popular web-based training series. The on line videos feature overviews of some of our building codes and how they relate to certain product applications. These on line videos have been a tremendous hit and offer the benefit of visual lessons to the code sections. Both MiTAPS and the on line video training modules can be accessed by visiting the bureau's web page at: www.michigan.gov/bccfs.

These are just a few of the many highlights of 2004, none of which would have happened without the dedication and professionalism of our employees. And you can bet that 2005 will be just as prosperous for us and packed with potential for *'providing safety in the built environment'* – our mission. We wish you all the best for a happy and healthy New Year!

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

We in state government are doing more with less these days. To make the best use of our limited resources, we are making the web our primary distribution method for the *Bulletin*.

However, we recognize that as we move some of our programs and services to more efficient means of doing business, the Internet, some folks may not access the services. Beginning with the August edition of the *Bulletin*, we will offer a one-year subscription service for a cost of \$10. The subscription rate covers additional layout and design time, printing and mailing expenses.

If you are interested in continuing to receive a printed version the *Bulletin*, please send a letter asking to be added to the *Bulletin* mailing list along with your name, address and a check or money order for \$10 made payable to "State of Michigan." Mail the request to: Bulletin Subscription, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, MI 48909. **If you have not submitted your e-mail to be added to our electronic distribution list, please do so soon to: ppdavis@michigan.gov.**

NEWS FROM INSIDE THE BUREAU

TEENAGE APPRENTICE WORK GUIDELINES

If you employ a teenager as an apprentice, it is important to be aware of the laws that outline what teenagers can and cannot do, minimum wage standards and work hours and break requirements.

For more information regarding employing a teenager, read the *Teenager's Guide to Employment in Michigan* pamphlet available on the Department of Labor and Economic Growth's, Wage and Hour Division web site at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Teenagers_Guide_89278_7.pdf

Or, contact the Wage and Hour Division by writing to:

DLEG – Wage and Hour Division

7150 Harris Drive

P.O. BOX 30476

Lansing, MI 48909-7976

Telephone: (517) 322-1825

BCCFS RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety thanks the following employees for their dedication and service to the state and wishes each of them a happy retirement.

Mary Nemeth retired on December 31 after 17 years of service. Mary worked in the Office of Fire Fighter Training.

Jon Curtis retired on October 15 after 33 years of service. Jon was a Fire Safety Supervisor.

Jim Ingalls retired on December 31 after 12 years of service. Jim was a Land Surveyor.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Barrier Free Design Board	March 18	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	March 15	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	March 2	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	February 4	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	April 8	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Fire Fighters' Training Council	February 9	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	April 20	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	March 23	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Fire Safety Board	March 24	1:00 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 1
State Plumbing Board	March 22	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the [BCCFS web site for updates](#).

BCC&FS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)

P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)

P.O. Box 30700 (Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Fighter Training Council)

P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation)

P.O. Box 30222 (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services)

Lansing, Michigan 48909

Telephone Numbers:

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Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972

Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313

Boiler Division (517) 241-9334

Building Division (517) 241-9317

Electrical Division (517) 241-9320

Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337

Fire Fighters' Training Council (517) 373-7981

Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325

Office of Local Government and

Consumer Services (517) 241-9347

Office of Land Survey and

Remonumentation (517) 241-6321

Office of the State Fire Marshal (517) 241-8847

Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328

Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330

BOILER DIVISION

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT THAT?

By Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division

This question may come to mind when you observe a boiler inspector inspecting a boiler or boiler system. The inspector may be looking at a copy of the owner's manual from the manufacturer, an installation drawing, boiler start-up test data, state of Michigan, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) or National Board code books, or the inspector may remove boiler access covers to look inside.

The state of Michigan boiler law [PA 290](#) requires that boilers be constructed to the ASME Code and if the boiler is steel or a coil type boiler it shall also be registered with the National Board. (See [Rules 408.4025 and Rule 408.4026.](#))

When entering the boiler room the inspector may take notice of many things. This might include boiler clearances, boiler room entrances and exits, electrical components and overall cleanliness of the area. In general, the condition of the boiler room will be an indication of the level of maintenance or attention the boiler receives. The inspector may also examine the burner arrangement for proper components, component arrangement and venting, installed valves to ensure they are rated for the system, the low water fuel cut off, the piping systems and supports and the piping and valve configuration to assure code compliance.

The inspector will also examine the boiler's safety or safety relief valves to assure they are properly sized, correctly installed, and operational. The safety or safety relief valves are the last line of defense to prevent a catastrophic boiler explosion due to

overpressure.

The inspector will look at the ASME data plate that will provide important information regarding the boiler's maximum steaming capacity. This information is necessary to determine whether the installed safety controls are properly sized and are appropriate for that particular boiler.

In addition to the physical inspection, an inspector may also become an educator. As a result of advancements in control technology and budget cuts in many organizations, personnel with little or no knowledge of boilers are being assigned maintenance responsibilities. We can confidently rely on the controls and safety devices to operate and shut-down a boiler provided they are properly maintained. Never hesitate to contact your local boiler inspector or the state of Michigan Boiler Division with your questions. I cannot tell you how many times someone has called me and made this statement, "I have a dumb question to ask" My response is always to say, "The only dumb question is the one that is not asked."

Your boiler inspector is a valuable source of information on requirements for boiler installation, inspection, main-tenance and testing. Just ask "Why are you looking at that?"



BUILDING DIVISION

POOL SAFETY COVERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED BARRIERS

By Charles Curtis, Assistant Chief
Building Division

Section AG105 of the 2003 Michigan Residential Code (MRC) controls the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. *"These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near-drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs."* This section covers the height, and openings of barriers including solid barriers, horizontal and vertical members, size of mesh and gates.

Many questions are asked about the use of a power cover instead of a barrier, and frequently section AG105.2 (9) is referenced, which can be misleading. This section reads: *"where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier one of the following conditions shall be met."* The key here is the word barrier. The complete section of AG105.5(9) is a reference to barriers around a swimming pool. A safety cover, which complies with ASTM F 1346, can only be used as a part of

the barrier system.

Section AG105.5 is an exception to AG105.2 (9) and eliminates the use of safety covers strictly on swimming pools, even though swimming pools, spas and hot tubs originally shared the same definition.

The provisions of the Michigan Building Code (MBC) 2003, Section 3109.4 are not intended to weigh in the determination of structures regulated by the MRC. Code section 3109.4 (MBC) does give an exception for power covers on swimming pools for R-1 and R-2 use groups, not one and two family and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses). It is not intended that the MRC and MBC necessarily cover the same hazards of each structure.

To clarify, the 2003 MRC, section AG105.2(9.1) does not allow a safety cover to be used in place of the barrier that is required by section AG105.2. Questions may be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

ELECTRIC UTILITY INSTALLATIONS

By Virgil Monroe, Chief
Electrical Division

A common question from electrical contractors concerns work an electric utility may perform without an electrical contractor's license, licensed personnel, permits, and inspections. Electrical work not covered by the 2002 Michigan Electrical Code is addressed in article 90.2. The article states:

"Installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility where such installations

a-consist of service drops, service laterals, and associated metering, or

b-are located in legally established easements, rights-of way, or by other agreements either designated by or recognized by public service commissions, utility commissions, or other regulatory agencies having jurisdiction for such installations, or

c-are on property owned or leased by the electric utility for the purpose of communications, metering, generation, control, transformation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy."

The second issue is licensing requirements. The [Electrical Administrative Act, P.A. 217, 338.887 Sec. 7. \(3\) states](#), "A license under this act is not required in the execution of the following classes of work." Section (c) states, "The installation, alteration, or repair of electrical equipment and its associated wiring installed on the premises of consumers or subscribers by or for electrical energy supply or communication agencies for the use by such agencies in the generation, transmission, distribution, or metering of electrical energy or for the operation of signals or transmission of intelligence." (d) states, "The installation, alteration, or repair of electric wiring for the generation and primary distribution of electric current, or the secondary distribution system up to and including the meters, where such work is an integral part of the system owned and operated by an electric light and power utility in rendering its duly authorized service."

A license or permit is not required for the work described above. Any questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

ASCENDING CAR OVERSPEED

By Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division

The Elevator Safety Division has received several questions regarding the requirements for ascending car overspeed. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17.1-2000, Section 2.19.1 Ascending Car Overspeed Protection addresses many of these concerns.

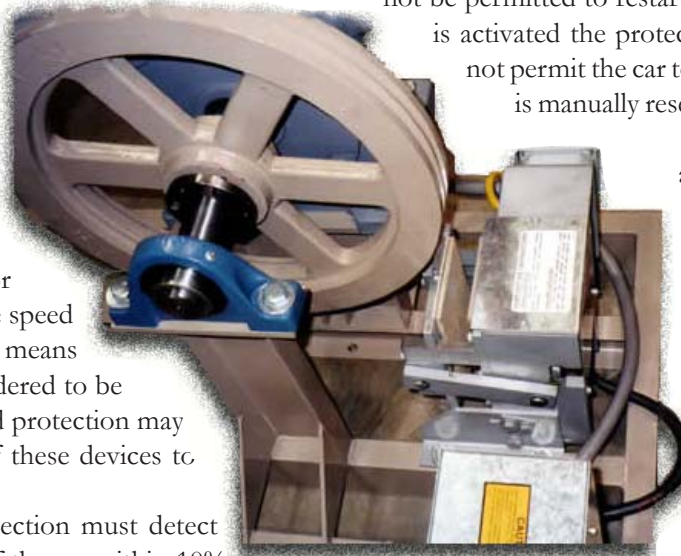
All **electric traction elevators**, except those whose empty car weight exceeds the total weight of the suspension ropes and counterweight, shall be provided with ascending car overspeed protection.

The purpose of ascending car overspeed protection is to prevent the car from striking the hoistway overhead structure. The protection must operate even if there is a failure of the following: the electric driving motor, brake, coupling, shaft, gearing, the control system, or any other component on which the speed of the car depends. The suspension means and the traction machine are considered to be in tact and the ascending overspeed protection may be designed to use one or both of these devices to stop and hold the car.

Ascending car overspeed protection must detect an overspeed in the up direction of the car within 10% of the speed at which the car governor is set to trip. If the rated

speed of the car is 300 ft/min and the car governor tripping speed is 395 ft/min, the ascending car overspeed protection must activate before the car reaches 434.5 ft/min. If the overspeed protection relies on electrical power to operate, the loss of that power must cause immediate activation of the ascending overspeed protection. The occurrence of a single ground or the failure of certain other parts of the elevator system cannot prohibit the detection means from properly operating and activating the ascending car overspeed protection. If a ground or failure of certain switches are detected the car must stop at or before the next scheduled landing and shall not be permitted to restart. Once the overspeed protection device is activated the protection must function to stop the car and not permit the car to start or run unless the emergency brake is manually reset.

New elevator installations with permits approved after December 31, 2003, must comply with these requirements. Existing elevators are not required to be upgraded to ascending car overspeed protection unless altered. For elevator alterations, Section 8.7 of ASME A17.1 should be reviewed to determine if ascending car overspeed protection is required as part of a specific alteration.



Shown is the rope gripper as required by Rule 2.26.2.29 ascending car overspeed protection device.

FIRE FIGHTERS' TRAINING COUNCIL & OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Andy Neumann
State Fire Marshal

UPDATES TO FIRE SAFETY RULES

At the December 8, 2004, State Fire Safety Board meeting members unanimously agreed to promulgate updates to fire safety rules for Fire Prevention, Adult Foster Care Facilities, Penal, Dormitories, Health Care Facilities, and Schools/Universities/Colleges using the International Fire Code.

Bureau staff will review existing Fire Safety rules for compatibility with the existing Michigan Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing codes. Upon completion of this review ad hoc committees will be formed to assist in the process of drafting rules and to support the rules through the promulgation process.

Please watch the bureau web site www.michigan.gov/bccfs for further information on the selection of ad hoc committees.

Last fall a survey was conducted of fire fighters, fire department management, fire inspectors and fire marshals. The objective of the survey was to examine the role of the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the value of services provided by the office.

Two thousand surveys were distributed, 331 individuals responded. The response rate was typical for the amount of surveys distributed with a margin of error rate of ± 5.35 percent.

The survey was also used as a tool to gather demographic information about Michigan's fire service personnel. Specifically, 31 percent of the respondents were firefighters, 28 percent were firefighter /EMS personnel, 18 percent were fire officers, 15 percent were chiefs of a department, 3 percent were an inspector /fire marshal, with 6 percent serving in 'other' roles. Seventy percent of the respondents provide EMS. The average length of service was 15 years and 97 percent of the respondents were male.

Of the respondents, 32 percent were full-time firefighters, 40 percent were part-paid and 28 percent were volunteer firefighters. The majority of respondents, 55 percent, were from departments with 11-30 personnel. Twenty-two percent were from departments with 31-50 personnel, 15 percent were from departments with 51-100 personnel and 8 percent were from departments with more than 100 personnel.

When asked about their **familiarity** with the OSFM, almost 50 percent of respondents were not familiar or not very familiar with the OSFM.

Fifty-three percent of the respondents indicated the **priority** of the Office of State Fire Marshal should be training programs. When asked what were the two most important issues facing the OSFM, respondents replied with training programs and funding as answers.

When asked which entities should the **OSFM work with more closely**, or integrate with more, 40 percent ranked homeland security at a high level of integration.

When the survey examined the **value** of services provided by the office, fire inspector training garnered 46 percent of the high level of value ranking. Fire inspector training also was the most common response when asked what services need to be strengthened. Also, 87 percent replied that the state is best suited to provide fire inspector training.

Respondents were asked to rank the **importance** of seven services listed in the survey relating to the OSFM. Eighty-two percent ranked fire service training as a high or very high priority, homeland security was second with 71 percent ranking as a high or very high priority, and fire investigation was third with 68 percent ranking as a high or very high priority.

The survey found that when ranking the **effectiveness of the training programs**, the firefighter 1 program garnered 87 percent of effective or very effective responses and the firefighter 2 program received 78 percent of the effective or very effective training responses.

In relation to **public fire education programs**, the importance of elementary school fire safety education garnered 72 percent of the very important vote. When asked how important is it that the OSFM be involved with public fire safety education, 40 percent of the respondents ranked it very important.

On the issue of **homeland security**, 88 percent responded that the OSFM should have a role. When asked about how involved the office should be with respect to homeland security, 40 percent responded with very involved.

While the survey measured perceptions of the OSFM, it also asked what were the **greatest challenges** faced as a fire fighter on the local level. Ranking as the most common response was: Lack of local funding for training or equipment. The next common response was: Inadequate or outdated training locally.

With these results tallied, where does the OSFM go from here? First, we will examine important policy areas for the office to engage in – then prioritize. Then, we will look at how the services we provide can be efficiently and effectively applied to make the greatest impact in our communities.

Thank you to the respondents for their time and valuable feedback. We'll continue to communicate developments on these survey results as they evolve into programs or policy.

www.michigan.gov/bccfs

LAND SURVEY & REMONUMENTATION

MI SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE DEFINITION OF "PARENT PARCEL"

By Maynard Dyer, Director
Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation

In the case *Sotelo v Township of Grant*, 470 Mich. 95, the Plaintiff landowners sought to divide their property in Grant Township, but the township denied approval of the request pursuant to the Land Division Act (LDA), §560.101 et seq. The Newaygo County Circuit Court upheld the township’s decision and awarded summary disposition for the township. The Michigan Court of Appeals reversed. The township appealed.

Simply put, the case involved two adjacent “parent” parcels that were reconfigured when a portion of one was sold to the owner of the other. The question was whether the reconfiguration resulted in an increase in the total number of possible divisions that could be made in the area encompassed by the two original parent parcels without complying with statutory platting requirements.

The trial court agreed with the township and found that the landowners were required to comply with the platting provisions

of the LDA in making the four-parcel split of the reconfigured parcel. The Michigan Court of Appeals concluded that the division of the reconfigured parcel into four separate parcels satisfied the requirements of §108 and that the township was required to approve the divisions under §109(1).

The Michigan Supreme Court concluded that under the plain language of the Land Division Act, the division of the reconfigured parcel resulted in a number of divisions to the parent parcel that exceeded the number of divisions permitted, and the landowners were therefore required to comply with the LDA’s platting provisions. The court reversed the Michigan Court of Appeals decision and reinstated the Newaygo County Circuit Court judgment.

The significance of the case is that the Court upheld that boundaries of a “parent parcel/tract” were fixed by the ownership of the parcel/tract on March 31, 1997; and “Division” does not include a property transfer between two or more adjacent parcels, if the property taken from one parcel is added to an adjacent parcel.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CONSUMER SERVICES

P.A. 54 EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM EVALUATION

By Scott Fisher, Director
Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

The Construction Code Commission is required to review and approve educational and training programs offered to building officials, inspectors, and plan reviewers to meet the continuing education and training requirements as defined in [Act 54 of 1986](#), and the registration rules. Approval of programs for certified fire inspectors is also required.

Assuring that quality education and training programs are being provided is an important aspect of this process. While bureau staff review and approve thousands of courses each year, we need your assistance to evaluate how well these courses meet your needs as a

registered building official, inspector, or plan reviewer.

In an effort to provide more variety in courses offered, and improve service to our customers, the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services is in the process of evaluating and, where necessary, revising the training programs. If you have recently attended a PA 54 educational and training program, or program designed for fire inspectors, please complete the on-line evaluation form at: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/email_parser/bccfs_training_eval.htm.

Your input will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of current programs, as well as to develop future programs. Thank you for assisting us in our effort to provide improved service to you.

LICENSE EXAMINATION SCHEDULE	Examination	Date	Location	Deadline
	Boiler Installer and Repair	March 2 & 3	Okemos	February 4
	Boiler National Boards	March 2 & 3	Okemos	February 4
	Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign	February 23	Okemos	Janaury 26
	Electrician - Journeyperson	March 21, 22, 23	Okemos	February 22
	Electrician - Master	March 24	Okemos	February 24
	Elevator - Cont./Cert. of Comp.	April 8	Okemos	March 18
	Elevator Journeyperson	April 5	Okemos	March 15
	Mechanical Contractor	March 1	Lansing	Janaury 31
	Plumbers - Contractor	March 14	East Lansing	
	Plumbers - Master and Journey	March 23	East Lansing	
	<i>Dates and location subject to change.</i>			

MECHANICAL DIVISION

HVAC CLASSIFICATION CLARIFICATION

By Tennison Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division

This article clarifies what the Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) classification on your license will allow you to do. It is first necessary to give the definition as written in the [Forbes Mechanical Contractor Act 192 of 1984](#), which reads as follows: "Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning "or "HVAC" means the application of equipment and systems to provide air conditioning for occupants of buildings and structures. HVAC does not include the installation of portable self-contained refrigeration equipment and window-type air conditioners of not more than 1-1/2 horsepower"

In the past, the definition of HVAC was limited to the installation of equipment only. More recently, the department interprets the definition to apply to the entire HVAC system which includes the ductwork, the gas piping and the venting of the equipment. Consequently, the department has changed the HVAC examination from a 50 question examination to a 160 question examination. The examination was revised to assure all parts of the installation of HVAC equipment were included.

Also, in the future, the ductwork examination will be upgraded to include additional questions on industrial and commercial duct applications. At that point, unless you are a contractor installing commercial duct systems, it will be very difficult to pass the examination.

In conclusion, if you have a HVAC endorsement on your license you can install all portions of the HVAC system including the ductwork.

If you have any questions you may contact Tennison Barry, Chief, Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

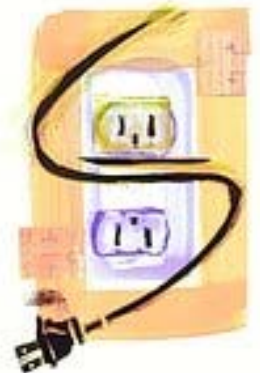
MUEC AND COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

By Irvin J. Poke, AIA, Chief
Plan Review Division

The Michigan Uniform Energy Code contains the provisions for energy conservation for all structures. The requirements for all commercial buildings other than low rise residential are in the ASHRAE 90.1-1999 standard, which became effective April 1, 2003. The standard incorporates energy conservation provisions for the building envelope, electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems.

I have received queries regarding the responsibility for enforcement and compliance verification. The local enforcing agency is responsible for the enforcement of all disciplines. This is done through the plan review process for each discipline. The building envelope compliance is part of the building plan review; electrical energy compliance is part of the electrical plan review and so on for the other disciplines. A local enforcing agency that is not addressing energy conservation in its plan reviews is not in compliance with 1972 PA 230.

We have found the majority of compliance software to be acceptable. However, the plan reviewer must verify that the design, detailing and specified equipment meet the requirements prescribed. If there are questions, contact the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328.



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PLUMBING DIVISION _____

RESIDENTIAL BACKFLOW PREVENTER INSTALLATIONS / PERMITS

By Robert Konyndyk Chief
Plumbing Division

The Plumbing Division has received several questions asking who may install residential lawn irrigation systems (outside lawn sprinkler systems) and if permits are necessary.

Outside lawn irrigation systems are not referred to in the state plumbing law, [2002 PA 733](#) or the Michigan Plumbing and Residential Codes. However, the act in section 7(e) along with section 15(2)(a) clarifies the backflow preventer is a plumbing licensing matter. Therefore, a licensed plumber shall install the device. The only exception in the act is section 15(3) which allows a homeowner installing their own plumbing in their single family dwelling, when a permit is obtained. The permit shall be obtained and issued to the homeowner only when they are performing the work themselves.

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety further clarifies the issue on its permit application through a signed Homeowner Affidavit, which states the following:

I hereby certify the plumbing work described on this permit application shall be **installed by my self in my own home**, which I am living in or about to occupy.

The Michigan Residential Code clarifies the protection of potable water supply systems in Section P2902. Lawn irrigation systems addressed in Section P2902.4.3, with zone valves located downstream of the device, require a pressure type vacuum breaker conforming to ASSE 1020.

Summarizing, a permit is required for the installation of an approved backflow preventer; not the installation of the system beyond the backflow preventer. Further, only a licensed plumber or the homeowner may install the device.

Direct any questions to Robert Konyndyk, Chief, Plumbing Division at: (517) 241-9330.